

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 737 - SB 945

March 10, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to allocate any unexpended Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds at the end of a fiscal year to eligible after-school programs to provide meals to enrolled students.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – The proposed legislation could jeopardize federal funding by using TANF funds for an unauthorized use without approval. The precise impact is dependent on action by the federal government and cannot be reasonably determined.

Assumptions:

- Under the proposed legislation, an after-school program is eligible to receive unexpended TANF funds if the program is in a community that is determined to be an area with low supermarket access by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Access Research Atlas, if the program serves students who are enrolled in local public schools, and if the program operates until at least six p.m. on school days.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 71-5-1204(d), unexpended TANF funds must be used for programs to provide services to families and individuals who are eligible for the TANF program, and in the furtherance any of the four purposes of the TANF program.
- The purpose of TANF programs that most directly aligns with the proposed legislation is that of providing assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in either their own home or in a relative's home.
- As written, it is unclear if providing nutritious meals to students as set forth in this legislation would constitute as furthering this purpose.
- The proposed legislation does not make a specification of which children the meals may be provided to, and it is assumed that the meals will be made available to all children who are enrolled in the after-school program.
- Therefore, it is possible that the program could put federal funding at risk by providing TANF funds to families that are not otherwise eligible, absent an express authorization from the Administration for Children and Families Division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Krista" and last name "Carsner" being more prominent than the middle name "Lee".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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